

# *the environment*

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## *Automobiles and the Environment*

*Leaving your vehicle at home is probably  
the kindest thing you can do for the environment.*

Automobiles are major contributors to air pollution and they are rapidly guzzling our non-renewable petroleum resources. Valuable land is continually being sacrificed for more roads and parking lots.

### **When you drive:**

- Take part in carpools for work, children's activities and your own leisure activities.
- Use your vehicle efficiently. Plan shopping and errands so you can get them all out of the way in one weekly trip. Combine shopping and errands with other trips. Stop for groceries and supplies on the way home from work, for example.
- Slow down to save fuel
- Keep weighty junk out of your car, to reduce fuel consumption.
- Drive a fuel-efficient vehicle. Keep your car in good repair and tuned up. Don't disconnect any emission controls — it's not only illegal, but environmentally irresponsible as well.
- Convert to alternative fuels such as propane.
- Use the correct size tires, correctly inflated.
- Try to reduce your use of auto air

conditioning, which increases fuel consumption and may add damaging substances to the atmosphere. Instead, make use of open windows and vents. Use cardboard windshield shades to keep the vehicle interior cooler when parking in the sun.

### **Recycling:**

- Properly dispose of motor oil. Never dump it on the ground or down a sewer or storm drain. Don't put it in the garbage bin to go to the landfill. Don't burn it.
- Some communities include used motor oil among the commodities they accept for recycling. So if you change the oil at home, seal the used oil in a plastic container and put it out for collection.
- If your community recycling project does not save motor oil, keep it with the other toxic wastes such as pesticides which you are saving to take to your community's annual hazardous waste collection.
- Recycle batteries too, or save them for the community's hazardous waste collection.
- Make sure old tires are taken to a recycling facility.

### **Community Action:**

- Encourage development of public transit, both local and inter-city.
- Support development of biking and walking lanes along streets and highways, as well as alternative routes for bikes and foot traffic.
- Encourage research and development of alternative energy transport. Vehicles are slowly being developed to run with electricity, solar power and other energy sources.
- Walk. It's good for you, too. So is riding a bicycle.
- Take public transit such as buses, trains and subways. Once you learn the routes and schedules and buy a pass, it can be pretty convenient.
- You can do without owning a motor vehicle at all, and afford to take cabs occasionally. Some cab companies will let you establish a monthly account.

*Automobile fuel consumption and emissions are major contributors to environmental problems. Consider how you can meet your transportation needs while helping protect the environment.*

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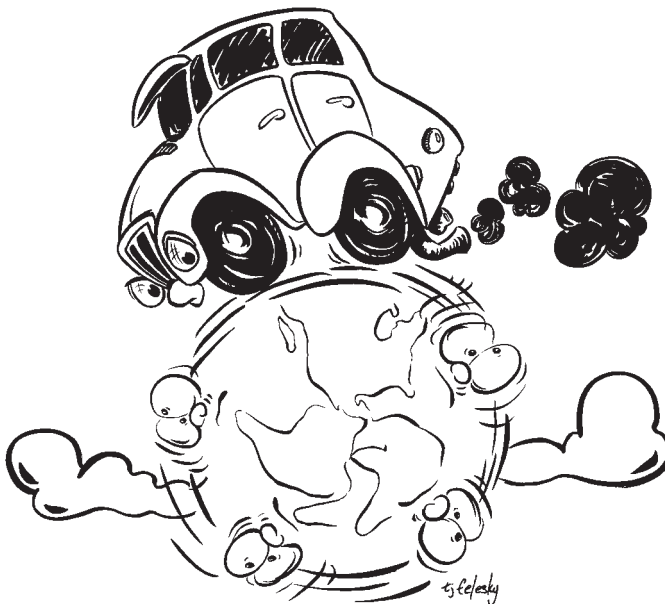
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